

Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee



The LECC LINK

**LINKING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COMMUNITY
IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

ALICE H. MARTIN, U.S. ATTORNEY, Chair LECC

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A Message from the U.S. Attorney, Alice H. Martin...

We recently held our Sixteenth Annual Alabama Statewide LECC Conference. With over 350 participants, this was one of our most successful and well attended conferences. I would like to thank those of you who helped to make it such an overwhelmingly successful event. Plans for next year's conference are already underway and I am certainly interested in your ideas and suggestions for next year's conference agenda. Please feel free to contact my **LECC Coordinator, Lyndon J. Laster** with your comments.

Also, please join me as I welcome **Tammy R. Ellis** to my office as the Intelligence Research Specialist (IRS). Tammy, as a key member of my staff, joins **Joe McLean** as my representative on the **Anti-Terrorism Advisory Counsel (ATAC)**. With her extensive Intelligence and Security background, she provides our district with another crucial element in our fight against terrorism and other crimes perpetrated against our citizens.

As we continue our efforts to rid our communities of drugs and drug related crime, I would like to recognize and applaud some of our most recent accomplishments of the **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** and the **Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF)**. During September and October agents and officers successfully compiled 25 cash and property seizures, netting almost \$2 million. In September there were 7 cash seizures and 10 vehicle seizures totaling \$733,000. During October they followed-up with 7 cash seizures totaling in excess of \$1.2 million. These seizures serve as proof that the challenges are great, but with combined coordinated law enforcement efforts, we can have a positive impact on disrupting and reducing the illegal drug activity in our district.

With the end of the year fast approaching, I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for your outstanding support, dedication, and contributions to making the Northern District of Alabama safer throughout the year. ***I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.***

Alice H. Martin

IN THIS ISSUE.....

<i>Weed & Seed Update.....</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Intelligence Research Specialist.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>LECC Training.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Alabama ICE.....</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>DEA Birmingham Update.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Honoring Chief Lemaster.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Patriot Act.....</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Recognizing Law Enforcement Officers.....</i>	<i>5</i>		
<i>Attorney General Renames ATTF.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Federal Funding Sources.....</i>	<i>6</i>		



WEED & SEED UPDATE

**Birmingham Weed and Seed, Inc.
Birmingham, Alabama**

By: Lynnette McGowens, Victim-Witness Advocate

We are pleased to announce that the Office of Justice Programs, Executive Office for Weed & Seed has awarded \$225,000.00 in grant funds to Birmingham Weed and Seed, Incorporated. This officially recognized Weed and Seed site is one of 23 community areas in the City of Birmingham, known as the Northside Community. The Northside Community consists of five neighborhoods, three of which have been selected as a Weed and Seed site. This designated area consists of Central City, Druid Hills, and Norwood Neighborhoods, which has approximately 10,300 residents and 4,300 households. This site was officially recognized in January, 2002 and was the recipient of the grant funds in October 2003. The Board of Directors and Advisors include residents, city government officials, representatives from local and federal law enforcement agencies and the United States Attorney's Office, as well as public and private agencies and organizations.

The Weed and Seed strategy involves a two-pronged approach:

- 1) Law enforcement agencies and criminal justice officials cooperate to "weed out" criminals who are violent or abuse drugs to prevent them from victimizing residents in the designated area.
- 2) Social services and economic revitalization are brought in to "seed" the area to ensure long-term change and a higher quality of life for residents.

The purpose of Weed and Seed is to reduce violent and drug-related crime from designated high-crime neighborhoods across the nation. A comprehensive approach is used to reduce and prevent crime and improve residents' overall quality of life. As a result, law abiding citizens will be able to live, work, and raise their families in a safer and more prosperous environment.

If your community is interested in becoming an officially recognized Weed & Seed site, please contact the U.S. Attorney's Office at (205) 244-2001.



As we continue our efforts to expand **Alabama I.C.E.** throughout the district, training has occurred with local law enforcement in 22 of the 31 counties in the Northern District. Of the 9 remaining counties, initial presentations on **Alabama I.C.E.** have been completed in 7 of those counties. In FY 2003, our office opened 172 ICE matters for prosecution. These cases were referred from 23 counties including Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, St. Clair, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties. The average sentence for a defendant prosecuted is 5+ years.

Significant strides have occurred in the outreach component of **Alabama I.C.E.** Public service announcements which send the message of "**Hard Time for Gun Crime**" can already be seen and heard in television and radio spots. Bus wraps are also visible on Birmingham metropolitan buses. Print media, which includes brochures, handbills and posters, will be distributed to local law enforcement, district attorney's offices, and community organizations district-wide. A presentation of **Alabama I.C.E.**, providing awareness of its goals and designs, was made at the League of Municipalities City Prosecutor Conference. Further, in an effort to expand the reach of the Re-Entry Program, a video is currently in production which will be distributed to every correctional institution in the **State of Alabama**. The message of the video will remain the same: to advise convicted felons, at the stage of "near release" to the community, about the "**Alabama I.C.E.**" message of intolerance to gun violence and encourage the inmates lawful response to the challenges faced by possession of firearms.

Please contact Ms. Alison Blackwell at the United States Attorney's Huntsville Branch Office at 256-534-8285 for free specialized federal firearm statute training.



PATRIOT ACT

The Department of Justice's first priority is to prevent future terrorist attacks. Since its passage following the September 11th attacks, the PATRIOT Act has played a key part - and often the leading role, in a number of successful operations to protect innocent Americans from the deadly plans of terrorists dedicated to destroying America and our way of life. While the results have been important, in passing the PATRIOT Act, Congress provided for only modest, incremental changes in the law. Congress simply took existing legal principles and retrofitted them to preserve the lives and liberty of the American people from the challenges posed by a global terrorist network.

CONGRESS ENACTED THE PATRIOT ACT BY OVERWHELMING, BIPARTISAN MARGINS, ARMING LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH NEW TOOLS TO DETECT AND PREVENT TERRORISM.

The ACT improves our counter-terrorism efforts in several significant ways:

- 1) The PATRIOT Act allows investigators to use the tools that were already available to investigate organized crime and drug trafficking.
 - ◆ Allows law enforcement to use surveillance against more crimes of terror
 - ◆ Allows federal agents to follow sophisticated terrorists trained to evade detection
 - ◆ Allows law enforcement to conduct investigations without tipping off terrorists
 - ◆ Allows federal agents to ask a court for an order to obtain business records in national security terrorism cases
- 2) The Patriot Act facilitated information sharing and cooperation among government agencies so that they can better "connect the dots."
 - ◆ Prosecutors can now share evidence obtained through grand juries with intelligence officials -- and intelligence information can now be shared more easily with federal prosecutors
- 3) The PATRIOT Act updated the law to reflect new technologies and new threats.
 - ◆ Allows law enforcement officials to obtain a search warrant anywhere a terrorist-related activity occurred
 - ◆ Allows victims of computer hacking to request law enforcement assistance in monitoring the "trespassers" on their computers
- 4) The PATRIOT Act increased the penalties for those who commit terrorist crimes.
 - ◆ Prohibits the harboring of terrorists
 - ◆ Enhanced the inadequate maximum penalties for various crimes likely to be committed by terrorists
 - ◆ Punishes terrorist attacks on mass transit systems
 - ◆ Punishes bioterrorists
 - ◆ Eliminates the statutes of limitations for certain terrorism crimes and lengthens them for other terrorist crimes

The government's success in preventing another catastrophic attack on the American homeland since September 11, 2001, would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, without the USA PATRIOT Act. The authorities Congress provided have substantially enhanced our ability to prevent, investigate, and prosecute acts of terror.

For more information regarding the Patriot Act contact Joe McLean at (205) 244-2001 or check out the website:
http://www.lifeandliberty.gov/patriot_overview_pversion.pdf.





Tammy R. Ellis

Tammy R. Ellis joins the Birmingham U.S. Attorney's office as the new Intelligence Research Specialist. She has been doing intelligence-related work for almost twenty years. Tammy got her start in military intelligence after graduating from Auburn University in 1984 with a degree in Political Science. She served in the Marine Corps 21 years - eight years enlisted and twelve years commissioned.

Tammy was assigned as an intelligence officer in support of ground, air, and combat service support. Furthermore, she has served at national and theater-level intelligence agencies, as well as a senior watch officer in a deployed environment. Not being tired of intelligence work, after retiring, Tammy took a civilian position at the Army's Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She played a critical role in developing threat analysis and force protection measures in the war against terrorism for installation operations and deploying soldiers.

Tammy is married to Steven, a native of Gadsden, Alabama and an educator of tomorrow's youth. They have three children: Christina, age 23; Benjamin, age 12; and Emily, age 7. Additionally they have a son-in-law Bryan, age 23.

Tammy may be reached at (205) 244-2188 or by e-mail - tammy.ellis.usdoj.gov.

Attorney General Renames ATTF...

In September 2003, the **Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF)** was renamed **Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC)**. The responsibilities of the ATAC will continue as they have since the ATTF was first conceived: Coordinate Anti-Terrorism Initiatives: a) ensure that federal, state, and local enforcement efforts are focused and coordinated as they pursue targets who may be connected to terrorism; b) mobilize and coordinate federal, state, and local officials for national prevention-based initiatives that involve significant prospects of imminent prosecution; c) provide a central forum for agencies to congregate and identify potential terrorism links among their investigations; d) initiate training programs; e) facilitate timely sharing of information; and f) support the **Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)** in all operational aspects of terrorism investigations. Terrorism, in the broadest sense, is politically, religiously, or socially motivated violence perpetrated against non-combative targets by groups or individuals. This definition includes violence directed at governmental entities, as well as private citizens, and violence directed at people and property, all for the purpose of forcibly changing public policy. ***Our mission: The fight against terrorism is now the first and overriding priority of the Department of Justice. We will devote all resources necessary to disrupt, weaken, and eliminate the infrastructure of terrorist organizations, to prevent or thwart terrorist attacks, and to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Our single objective is to prevent terrorist attacks by taking suspected terrorists off the street. We will use every available statute. We will seek every prosecutorial advantage. We will use all weapons within the law and under the Constitution to protect life and enhance security for America. We will not hesitate in this pursuit, nor will we be thwarted.***

DEA Birmingham Update

By: **Special Agent Darrien Rentfro, Group Supervisor, DEA - Birmingham**



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Birmingham resident office consists of two enforcement groups, the HIDTA task force and the DEA Task Force. The DEA Task Force managed by group supervisor, Darrien Rentfro, is composed of 4 special agents and 6 task force agents, who are responsible for covering 22 counties in the Northern District of Alabama. The task force agents are detached to DEA from various police agencies including Alabama Bureau of Investigations, Alabaster Police Department, Calhoun County Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, Montevallo Police Department, and the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

The DEA task force believes that conducted complex conspiracy investigations, highway interdiction, and local impact investigations simultaneously leads to the most successful disruption of the distribution of narcotics. Utilizing this concept produced 52 arrests and the following seizures for the last quarter of FY 2003: 55 kilograms of methamphetamine, 10 clandestine labs, 1 kilogram of cocaine, 780 kilograms of marijuana, \$632.00 in U.S. currency, and 20 vehicles. These investigations were prosecuted at either the state or federal level, depending on the type of narcotic distributed, the level of the violator and their criminal history.

So far in the 1st Quarter FY 2004, the Birmingham Resident Office has seized/investigated the following amounts of drugs: 42,693.70 grams of cocaine, 175 grams of marijuana, 16,669.1 grams of Ecstasy, and 206.6 grams of steroids.



RECOGNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

At the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Conference in July 2003, Lt. Mo Cannady was awarded Instructor of the Year; Officer Mac Hardy was given the Award for Valor; and the entire unit was given the award as Model SRO Agency of the year.



Chief Bob Berry & Lt. Mo Cannady
Hoover Police Department



Chief Bob Berry & Officer Mac Hardy
Hoover Police Department



ASIS RECOGNIZES LAW ENFORCEMENT

United States Attorney Alice H. Martin was the keynote speaker and presenter for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day that was sponsored by the American Society for Industrial Security on Tuesday, September 16, 2003, in Birmingham, Alabama. Approximately 300 local, state, and federal law enforcement officers attended this event.



Deputy D. W. Hull - Courage
Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept.



Tactical Unit #1 - Overall Excellence
Alabama State Police



Officer Alicia Price - Valor & Bravery
Birmingham Police Department



Trooper Earnest Lockett - Courage
Alabama State Police





Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

COPS supports innovative community policing initiatives, funds the purchase of crime fighting technology, provides training and technical assistance resources, and funds the hiring of local law enforcement officers. Since 1995, COPS has invested \$9.6 billion in the advancement of community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state and local law enforcement agencies to hire over 118,000 officers.

Secure Our Schools (SOS) - COPS has invested more than \$795 million in America's schools through programs like **COPS in Schools, School-Based Partnerships, and the School Safety Initiative**. COPS expanded that range of programs in fiscal year 2002 to include **Secure Our Schools**. SOS gives grantees the opportunity to establish and enhance a variety of school safety equipment and/or programs to continue to enhance school safety efforts within their communities. SOS grants cover the cost of security measures, such as the placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; security assessments; security training for students and personnel; coordination with local law enforcement; and other measures that could significantly increase the school's security posture.

In September 2003 the following communities were awarded grant funds for the Secure Our Schools Program:

The City of Birmingham - \$50,000.00

The City of Eutaw - \$25,000.00

Sumter County - \$25,000.00

Universal Hiring Program (UHP) - Adding Officers to the Street - The **Universal Hiring Program** is another one of several programs developed by COPS to increase the number of officers on the beat. As state, local, and tribal law enforcement embrace the challenges of securing our homeland, this is now more important than ever. UHP enables interested agencies to supplement their current sworn forces, or interested jurisdictions to establish a new agency, through three-year federal grants.

In September 2003 the following agencies were awarded grant funds for the Universal Hiring Program:

Alabama Department of Public Safety - \$1,875,000.00

Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Office - \$150,000.00

For more information on COPS programs and resources, please contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770, or visit COPS online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

STOP Violence Against Women Act Program (VAWA)

Administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

Under the violence against women grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, OVW has awarded more than \$1 billion in grant funds. These grant programs help state, local, and tribal governments and community-based agencies to train personnel, establish specialized domestic violence and sexual assault units, assist victims of violence, and hold perpetrators accountable. More than 6,500 STOP subgrants have supported

community partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, and others to address violence against women.

Communities are encouraged to leverage the coercive power of the criminal justice system to enhance women's safety and manage offenders' behavior. Some of the grant programs administered by OVW include: **STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants Programs, STOP Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grants**

Program, Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders, Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grants, Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campuses Program.

For more information about VAWA funding, contact OVW at (202) 307-6026 or visit the website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/.



UPCOMING LECC TRAINING

DECEMBER 3 - 5, 2003

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Location: Point Clear, Alabama

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2003
(9:00 a.m. - 12 noon)

ATAC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Location: U.S. Attorney's Office, Birmingham, Alabama

JANUARY 2004

**STATE AND LOCAL ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING (SLATT)
TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP**

FEBRUARY 2004

ETHICS TRAINING

MARCH 2004

IDENTITY THEFT SEMINAR

MARCH 2004

SCRIP WATCH SEMINAR

**For more information about upcoming training events, visit the United States Attorney's web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln or contact the LECC Coordinator, Lyndon J. Laster by phone (205) 244-2001 or by email at Lyndon.Laster@usdoj.gov.*

Recent LECC Training

August 27 - 29, 2003 - SIXTEENTH ANNUAL ALABAMA STATEWIDE LECC CONFERENCE

Sponsored By: The United States Attorney's Offices for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Alabama

Location: Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama

Over 400 local, state, and federal law enforcement attended this conference that was held in Orange Beach, Alabama.



L - R: Special Agent Neil Morgenstern, DEA; ASAC Greg Borland, DEA; Special Agent Jeffrey T. Walsh, DEA; Lyndon J. Laster, LECC Coordinator

September 17 & 18, 2003 - RAVE/CLUB DRUG AWARENESS

Sponsored By: The United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Alabama and the Drug Enforcement Administration

Location: Hoover, Alabama and Huntsville, Alabama

These training sessions were held in Hoover and Huntsville, Alabama and was attended by 137 local, state, and federal law enforcement officers. Unit Chiefs Neil Morgenstern and Jeff Walsh from the DEA Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia covered the following topics: the pharmacology of Ecstasy and other "club/predatory drugs", the history and current state of rave parties, information detailing the production, sale, use, and the effects of Ecstasy and other club drugs such as Ketamine, GHB, and Rophynol, as well as, prosecution alternatives and legislation updates.

September 26 and October 24, 2003 - HATE GROUPS SEMINAR

Sponsored By: The United States Attorney's Office and the Southern Poverty Law Center

Location: Hoover, Alabama and Huntsville, Alabama

These seminars were also held in Hoover and Huntsville, Alabama and was attended by 130 local, state, and federal law enforcement officers. Ms. Laurie L. Wood, Senior Intelligence Analyst/Training Coordinator provided an overview and introduction of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Intelligence Project and how they work with law enforcement, a brief history of KKK and white supremacy in the United States, as well as a national overview of various far-right extremist factions in the United States, including Klan, neo-Nazis, racist Skinheads, Christian Identity, black supremacists, and others.





Fallen.....but not Forgotten

Honoring Chief Verlon Lemaster Grant Police Department

Information taken from al.com Stories, Kent Faulk, News Staff Writer



On August 15, 2003, Alabama lost one of its finest law enforcement officers. Chief Verlon Lemaster was shot and killed while accompanying Marshall and Madison County Sheriff's deputies on a search warrant. Chief Lemaster served the Grant Police Department for 20 years, with the last 14 years as police chief. He was born and raised in Grant, Alabama where he served most of his adult life serving his community. In addition to serving as the Chief of the Grant Police Department, he served as a volunteer firefighter at the Grant Volunteer Fire Department, was the treasurer for the fire department board, and the town's safety officer. He was described as an easy going man who would show up on or off-duty to assist with fires, wrecks, and to find lost people. It was said that "the fact that he died in the line of duty shows his commitment to this community and to the people that he works with..." Chief Lemaster made a significant contribution his community and was well known and respected. He will truly be missed.



Honoring Officers James Crump, Arnold Strickland, and Dispatcher Ace Mealer Fayette Police Department

Information taken from CNN.com/U.S.

On June 7, 2003, Officers James Crump, Arnold Strickland, and Dispatcher Ace Mealer were shot and killed while booking a suspect at the Fayette Police Department in Fayette, Alabama. We honor these men for their legacy of commitment, dedication and service.

**Alice H. Martin, United States Attorney
Northern District of Alabama
U.S. Attorney's Office
1801 Fourth Avenue, North
Birmingham, AL 35203**

**Attention Law Enforcement Officers: We would like to highlight officers for special acts of service, retirements, etc. in our upcoming newsletters. Please submit the name, rank, agency, and a brief description of what the officer (s) is being recognized for and submit this information to Ms. Lynnette McGowens at the U.S. Attorney's Huntsville Branch Office located 400 Meridian Street, Ste. 304, Huntsville, AL 35801. You may also reach her via e-mail at Lynnette.McGowens@usdoj.gov or via facsimile at (256) 534-1254. We also welcome any comments or articles that you would like to contribute to our future newsletters.*